

Remarks

Claim 23 has been amended to insert to the inadvertently omitted word "includes".

Claims 20-22, 24-25 and 27 and 28 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious from Sandstrom in view of Nelson. Of the claims rejected here, claims 20 and 24 are independent claims and the discussion will initially be focused on those claims.

Claim 20 has been amended to clarify that the single columnar exposure field on the workpiece is formed with **one pulse of radiation**. Claim 24 has been amended to clarify that the movement of the workpiece stage is controlled "...such that a single pulse of radiation forms a single columnar exposure field on the workpiece, with **each** temporally adjacent radiation **pulse sequentially forming another** adjacent columnar exposure field."

Claims 20 and 24 amended as outlined above now clearly distinguish from Sandstrom and Nelson.

Claim 21 has been canceled.

Further, since each of claims 22, 25 and 27-28 includes the limitations of the independent claim from which they each depend, and they all depend from one of claims 20 and 24, the combined features of those dependent claims are also distinguishable from Sandstrom and Nelson.

Claim 23 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious from Sandstrom in view of Nelson and further in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. Claim 23 is dependent from independent claim 20 which as amended is distinguishable

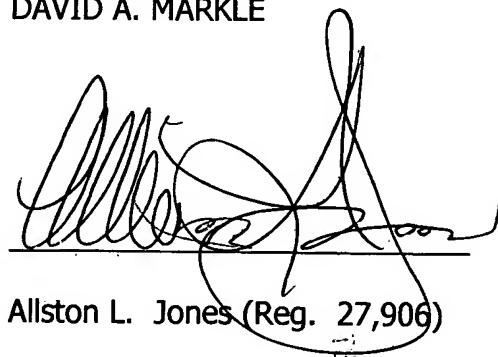
from Sandstrom and Nelson, claim 23 by that dependency is thus distinguishable from Sandstrom and Nelson and any other reference that may be combined with them.

Claim 26 was rejected by the Examiner as being obvious from Sandstrom in view Nelson and further in view of Takiguchi. Since claim 26 is dependent from claim 24, and claim 24 has been amended to distinguish from Sandstrom and Nelson, claim 26 based on that dependency thus is also distinguishable from those references, and also distinguishable from all other references that may be added to Sandstrom and Nelson.

Given that claims 1-19 were previously allowed by the Examiner and it has been shown that claims 20 and 22-28 are distinguishable from the cited references, all of claims 1-20 and 22-28 are now in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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